

**Appln No. 10/665,303**  
**Amdt date October 17, 2005**  
**Reply to Office action of July 15, 2005**

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 16 with the following amended paragraph.

In the depicted embodiment, the distal end of the stiffening member **20** is attached to the distal end of the inner member **14**, and indirectly to the distal end of the non-conductive cover **22**, by being glued or otherwise attached to the plastic cap ~~[[22]]~~ 28. The stiffening member **20** can be attached, directly or indirectly, to the non-conductive cover **22** in any other manner and at any other position along the length of the inner member **14**. However, it is currently preferred that the stiffening member **20** be attached to the non-conductive cover **22** closer to the distal end of the inner member **14** to permit the user to have better control when extending and retracting the inner member.